

Rule 35. Pharmacy Technicians

856 IAC 1-35-1 Purpose and scope

Authority: IC 25-26-13-4

Affected: IC 25-26-13

Sec. 1. (a) The board is responsible for establishing standards for the competent practice of pharmacy.

(b) The use of pharmacy technicians to assist the pharmacist with nondiscretionary functions associated with the practice of pharmacy enables the pharmacist to provide pharmaceutical care to the patient.

(c) Evolved pharmacy practice demands additional time for pharmacists to counsel individual patients regarding the proper use of drugs.

(d) Only pharmacists (licensed under IC 25-26-13-11), pharmacy interns and externs (as defined in IC 25-26-13-2 and registered under IC 25-26-13-10), and pharmacy technicians as described in this section shall be permitted to participate in the activities associated with a drug order or prescription preparation.

(e) A pharmacist shall not permit a pharmacy technician to participate in the activities associated with a drug order or prescription preparation unless the pharmacy technician meets the qualifications of this section. (*Indiana Board of Pharmacy; 856 IAC 1-35-1; filed Aug 17, 1995, 8:30 a.m.: 19 IR 39*)

856 IAC 1-35-2 “Unlicensed person” defined

Authority: IC 25-26-13-4

Affected: IC 25-26-13-18

Sec. 2. (a) As used in this rule, “unlicensed person” means a pharmacy technician who, under the immediate and direct supervision of the pharmacist, assists the pharmacist in the technical and nonjudgmental functions related to the practice of pharmacy in the processing of prescriptions and drug orders.

(b) As used in subsection (a), “pharmacy technician” shall not include pharmacy intern/externs or other ancillary persons which include, but are not limited to:

- (1) clerks;
- (2) secretaries;
- (3) cashiers; or
- (4) delivery persons;

who may be present in the pharmacy. (*Indiana Board of Pharmacy; 856 IAC 1-35-2; filed Aug 17, 1995, 8:30 a.m.: 19 IR 40*)

856 IAC 1-35-3 “Pharmaceutical care” defined

Authority: IC 25-26-13-4

Affected: IC 25-26-13

Sec. 3. As used in this rule, “pharmaceutical care” means the responsible provision of drug therapy for the purpose of achieving definite outcomes that improve a patient's quality of life. (*Indiana Board of Pharmacy; 856 IAC 1-35-3; filed Aug 17, 1995, 8:30 a.m.: 19 IR 40*)

856 IAC 1-35-4 Qualifications

Authority: IC 25-26-13-4

Affected: IC 25-26-13-18

Sec. 4. To be eligible to perform the functions and duties of a pharmacy technician, an individual must possess the following qualifications, which shall be ascertained and documented by the pharmacist that qualifies the pharmacy permit:

(1) The individual has not been convicted of a crime that has a direct bearing on the individual's ability to work with legend drugs or controlled substances.

(2) The individual must be a high school graduate or have successfully completed a General Education Development program.

(3) The individual must have successfully completed or be enrolled in one (1) of the following board approved programs:

(A) A board approved comprehensive curricular-based education and training program conducted by a pharmacy or educational organization.

(B) A technician training program utilized by the employer that includes specific training in the duties required to assist the pharmacist in the technical functions associated with the practice of pharmacy. The contents of the training program shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(i) Understanding of the duties and responsibilities of the technician and the pharmacist, including the standards of patient confidentiality and ethics governing pharmacy practice.

(ii) Tasks and technical skills, policies, and procedures related to the technician's position.

(iii) Working knowledge of pharmaceutical-medical terminology, abbreviations, and symbols commonly used in prescriptions and drug orders.

(iv) Working knowledge of the general storage, packaging, and labeling requirements of drugs, prescriptions, or drug orders.

(v) Ability to perform the arithmetic calculations required for the usual dosage determinations.

(vi) Working knowledge and understanding of the essential functions related to drug purchasing and inventory control.

(vii) The record keeping functions associated with prescriptions or drug orders.

(C) A record of the pharmacy technician training and education must be maintained in the pharmacy where the technician is employed and shall include the following:

(i) The name of the pharmacy technician.

(ii) The date of completion of the training program.

(iii) A copy of the training manual, if on-the-job training is used by the employer, or certificate of successful completion of another approved program, or other training program completed prior to employment. (*Indiana Board of Pharmacy; 856 IAC 1-35-4; filed Aug 17, 1995, 8:30 a.m.: 19 IR 40*)

856 IAC 1-35-5 Duties that a pharmacy technician may not perform

Authority: IC 25-26-13-4

Affected: IC 25-26-13-18

Sec. 5. A pharmacy technician may perform many technical functions associated with the practice of pharmacy. However, even under the immediate and direct supervision of a pharmacist, the pharmacy technician is prohibited from performing the following functions:

- (1) Any duty required by law, regulation, or rule to be performed by a pharmacist.
- (2) The provision of advice or consultation with the prescriber or other licensed health care provider regarding the patient or the interpretation and application of information contained in the prescription or drug order, medical record, or patient profile.
- (3) The provision of advice or consultation with the patient regarding the interpretation of the prescription or the application of information contained in the patient profile or medical record.
- (4) Dispensing of prescription drug information to the patient as required in IC 25-26-13-4.
- (5) Receipt of a verbal prescription, other than a refill approval or denial, from a prescriber.
- (6) Final check on all aspects of the completed prescription and assumption of the responsibility for the filled prescription, including, but not limited to, accuracy of the:
 - (A) drug;
 - (B) strength; and
 - (C) labeling.

(Indiana Board of Pharmacy; 856 IAC 1-35-5; filed Aug 17, 1995, 8:30 a.m.: 19 IR 41)

856 IAC 1-35-6 Provision of quality assurance; duties

Authority: IC 25-26-13-4

Affected: IC 25-26-13-18

Sec. 6. (a) The pharmacist is responsible for the work performed by the pharmacy technician under the pharmacist's supervision. Therefore, a pharmacist employing a pharmacy technician shall establish written policies and procedures that describe in detail the means of providing supervisory oversight and continuous monitoring of the pharmacy technician's work performance.

- (b) These policies and procedures shall be used in:
- (1) training pharmacists and pharmacy technicians; and
 - (2) continuing training related to changes in job responsibilities.

(Indiana Board of Pharmacy; 856 IAC 1-35-6; filed Aug 17, 1995, 8:30 a.m.: 19 IR 41)

856 IAC 1-35-7 Identification

Authority: IC 25-26-13-4

Affected: IC 25-26-13-18

Sec. 7. (a) The public shall be able to identify a pharmacist from a pharmacy technician while engaged in the provision of pharmaceutical care.

- (b) A pharmacy technician shall:
- (1) wear identification clearly stating that the person is a pharmacy technician while on duty; and
 - (2) identify himself or herself verbally in any telephonic or electronic communication as a pharmacy technician.

(c) No person, other than a person who has met the qualifications established in section 4 of this rule, will be permitted to wear identification using the words “pharmacy technician” or similar wording that may confuse or deceive another person. (*Indiana Board of Pharmacy; 856 IAC 1-35-7; filed Aug 17, 1995, 8:30 a.m.: 19 IR 41*)